

INDIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL

SOMETHING WONDERFUL is happening in schools all **ACROSS MONTANA**, something that is beginning to have a profound impact on the way Montana students see themselves and the rest of the world. It is called Indian Education For All, and it is the **FIRST PROGRAM OF ITS KIND** in the nation.

Our **STUDENTS ARE RESPONDING** because learning about Montana's tribes helps all of us—whatever our cultural background—understand **WHO WE ARE AS MONTANANS**. What a great starting point for learning about our world!



AMANDA WILLEKES
BYNUM SCHOOL
7TH GRADER

I think it's really important because it's not just that we get to learn about all the different tribes in Montana, but it opens up all kinds of other interests. For me, learning about Indians in Montana has made me curious about other kinds of people in the world. It's neat to think about everything that's the same and different about people. I want to learn more about the Blackfeet, because they're our neighbors. Now I want to keep learning more about all the different cultures out there in the world.



INDIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL

Montana's legislature, following our state's Constitution, recognized the need for all Montanans "TO LEARN ABOUT THE DISTINCT AND UNIQUE HERITAGE OF AMERICAN INDIANS IN A CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE MANNER." Indian Education For All puts these words into practice in classrooms around the state, and Montana's students are responding.

What could be more interesting and fun than when studying science you learn about native plants and the role they play in the lives of American Indians?

Linda McCulloch, Superintendent of Public Instruction



When you meld Indian Education into what you're already teaching, it adds a richness and depth.

Melaina Crabtree

CORRI SMITH GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS INDIAN EDUCATION COACH

Indian Education For All is not about blaming people, or making them feel guilty. It's about teaching us all to include each other when we think about the world, and about our place in it. It's about getting rid of the biases that we've all inherited, and looking at each other as fellow human beings, and not as a collection of stereotypes. Students get it. They really get it.

MELAINA CRABTREE BIGFORK ELEMENTARY THIRD GRADE TEACHER

When you meld Indian Education into what you're already teaching, it adds a richness and depth. Even in third grade, students are not too young to be introduced to issues like sovereignty. When we are talking about local people and local tribes, it makes abstract issues very concrete. It helps the students make connections between local issues and what is happening in the state, the country, and the world.

*It will help our students
engage with the world, and be
compassionate and respectful,
and become better citizens,
and better human beings.*

Hans Bodenhammer



MARGARET PETTY
LEWIS & CLARK SCHOOL MISSOULA
THIRD GRADE TEACHER

I've tried to structure my school year around the Salish calendar, which may seem quaint or artificial, but it's not. That's because Missoula is Salish country. This year we learned about preserving fruits and vegetables. Our starting point was: 'How did the Salish do it in the old days? How do they do it today? How do we do it today?' So we learned some cultural history, but it was a heck of a science lesson. I guarantee the students will remember it!

Our students respond to Indian Education For All because the **PRINCIPLES ARE EMBRACED** by the outstanding and innovative teachers, school librarians, administrators and other educators in schools across Montana.

Educators are teaching Indian Education For All in all subject areas—not just history and government. Teachers are finding ways to include it into reading, writing, math, art, science and many other classes. It's an exciting and new way to teach and great way to learn. **STUDENTS LOVE IT.**

HANS BODENHAMMER
BIGFORK HIGH SCHOOL
CHEMISTRY TEACHER

The way I see it, Indian Education For All is about breaking down barriers. It's important for students to see that there are many more similarities than differences between Indian and non-Indian people, that we are all, ultimately, the same. If this lesson is learned, it will help our students—all of them—engage with the world, and be compassionate and respectful, and become better citizens, and better human beings. That is why Indian Education for All matters.

JAKE RIDER HARLEM HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR

When I was in grade school, we had “Native American Week,” when we read a few stories, and that was about it. Now everything is so much more in depth. Now we have a context for learning about Indian culture and history. In my school there are many more Natives than non-Natives. But what I’ve found is that learning about these things brings us closer together. For example, we have non-Indian students in my school who choose to study Assiniboiné or Gros Ventre instead of French or Spanish. I think that says a lot.

GLENN GARRISON THOMPSON FALLS HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER

I love finding ways to incorporate Indian Education For All into my history classes. The idea is that you start with local people, and local issues, and local history, and then go on from there. And it works. It really makes the students more critical thinkers. It makes them more likely to go out into the world and succeed.

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LAURA MCCANN HARLEM HIGH SCHOOL ART TEACHER

My art students often use Native American motifs in my classes, and that’s something I encourage. It’s not just about teaching art, and it’s not just about teaching culture. I believe every teacher has an obligation to teach tolerance and respect of all cultures. That’s something that all students understand.



LINDA MCCULLOCH SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

“Montana students and teachers have embraced Indian Education for All, and Montana is recognized nationally for our work. Other western states are eager to learn from us and put into place their own Indian Education for All initiative. We are happy to share our successes with them and to learn from their efforts.”



Montana Office of Public Instruction
Linda McCulloch, Superintendent
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